

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February, 24, 2022 **Time:** 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Location - meet.google.com/dmj-gudf-bky?hs=224

Attendees: Cortney Fisher
Bill Gaertner
Michelle Hughes
Jamon Ford
Tiffany Watson

Meeting Goals and Objectives

- Revisit Goals of the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA)
- Review Current JRA Boards and Roles within the Maryland Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)
- Discuss Funding History and Future Grant Opportunities through the Performance Incentive Grant Fund (PIGF)
- Strategic Planning Discussion around Innovative Approaches to Outreach and Expansion of the JRI and the PIGF

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks - *Refer to PowerPoint Slides*
 - II. Overview of Maryland JRA - *Refer to PowerPoint Slides*
 - III. JRA Goals, Objectives, and Progress - *Refer to PowerPoint Slides*
 - IV. JRA Boards and Membership
- **JRA Boards and Membership - *Refer to Powerpoint Slides*** Increase collaboration and participation within the Advisory Board. The expertise and knowledge of the advisory board should be spread across the Oversight Board and the Local Commission Board.
 - Action-oriented meetings, move away from just presenting the information. Need more meetings that will help the JRA and will improve the JRA.
 - Figure out how to fill any gaps or needs within the boards
 - Should the vacancies within the board be filled? Should people who are regularly not attending the meetings still have a seat?
 - We are observing and taking attendance in the Local Commission Board and the Advisory Board to see if people are regularly attending or not attending. We are taking note to see if we need to reach out to people and see if they are still interested in working on the board.
 - **Category B Priority Applications - *Refer to PowerPoint Slides***
 - During the Local Commission meeting, members mentioned that the LGBT+ community should also be considered a priority group since there is a lot of

overlap with the other aspects of the JRA.

- Do Abuser Intervention Programs fit in behavioral health programming, reentry programming, and alternatives to incarceration? Do we fund Abuser Intervention Programs?
 - We have funded Abuser Intervention Programs many times through support for victims and restitution enhancements. We drill into the Abuser Intervention Programs as one of the evidence-based practices.
 - AOC funds some of the Abuser Intervention Programs courts often fund those programs as well.
 - We did have priority for specialty courts, but we have since broadened that to Alternatives to Incarceration.
- Hagerstown is a prison-centered community. People on the sex offenders registry have a lot of limitations, only a few places to live and work. A lot of men are being released that were on the registry. Many people come into the office for opportunities and services, but there is not much they can do.
 - Parole and Probation help Bill's office in what services and jobs can be offered to the offenders.
 - It may be an issue in terms of community safety depending on the offense.
 - We have to make sure we are not talking about violent offenders or violent sexual offenders.
- Reentry is an important aspect of the JRA and should also help with IDs, resources packages, and important documents. Jail IDs are not accepted everywhere and many previously incarcerated people do not have important documents needed to work or live.
 - Reentry Program at a jail in Hagerstown 5 men are getting out in 2 to 5 months. One man getting out after 45 years has no ID. Others have no birth certificates. They fill out applications to where they are from to get documents through their resource club that meets regularly.
 - Opportunities and funding to replicate programs like the one Bill is involved in across the state. Especially if they are evidence-based practices like having documentation for previously incarcerated people; if you are aware of programs that are doing well and need funding, bring them to the board.
- To increase collaboration between the boards, we will have someone in the advisory board also sit in the Oversight Board meetings.
- Looking at other states and what they are doing within the JRA. What is working for them and how can we implement that, and what is not working for them.